

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Insert as the first paragraph of the specification the following new paragraph:

--This application is a 371 of PCT/EP2003/013166, filed November 24, 2003, which claims foreign priority benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119 of the German Patent Application No. 102 59 460.0 filed December 19, 2002.—

Page 5, Line 13, please amend as follows:

For initiator functionalization it is possible for any free-radical initiators known to the skilled worker to be chemically attached to the particles of silicate and/or of silica gel. The free-radical initiator may be reacted with a silylethoxy, silane or silyl chloride compound in the optional presence of a catalyst or of a basic substance with the particles of silicate and/or of silica gel. Examples of suitable free-radical initiators include peroxides, nitroxide compounds, secondary and tertiary bromides (in general all ATRP initiators [Matyjaszewski et al. Macromolecules 1995, 28, 1721 and Journal of American Chemical Society 1995, 117, 5614]), and azo compounds.

Page 11, Line 26, please amend as follows:

Example 9:

The procedure of Example 4 5 was repeated. The polymerization was carried out using 0.8 g of acrylic acid, 34.8 g of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, 4.0 g of methyl acrylate, 5.0 g of azo-initiator-functionalized silica gel and 0.4 g of maleic anhydride. The amounts of

solvent and of initiator were retained. The polymer was blended with 0.5 weight fractions of a difunctional urethane acrylate (Genomer 4312<sup>TM</sup>, Rahn) and 25 weight fractions of a hydrogenated hydrocarbon resin (Norsolene M1080<sup>TM</sup>, Cray Valley), and with 5 weight fractions of Staybelite<sup>®</sup> 3-E (Hercules), and the blend was dried and coated at 50 g/m<sup>2</sup> on the polyester backing. The specimen was EB cured with a dose of 50 kGy. Analysis was carried out using test methods A and B.